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El Salvador: Human Rights Abuse Figures For November

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Dec. 12, the independent Salvadoran Human Rights Commission (CDHES) released a report on assassinations and abductions in November. According to CDHES figures, 51 civilians were assassinated, and 35 more abducted by the armed forces last month. The report charged that the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) was responsible for assassinating two non-combatants in the same period. In October, the CDHES reported that the army was responsible for 49 assassinations and 20 illegal arrests. The CDHES report indicated that death squad activity continues. Next, the Commission asserted that the judicial system's inability to prosecute persons responsible in the Jesuit murder case qualifies as a significant human rights abuse or issue. CDHES leader Celia Medrano said the rising number of violence incidents is linked to the upcoming congressional and municipal elections scheduled for March. She said it was doubtful that the upcoming vote would serve to strengthen democracy due to the failure of negotiations between the FMLN and the government to reach an agreement on military issues. (Basic data from Salpress, 12/13/90)

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